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ABSTRACT

This report surveyed the activities of the Research Coordinating Unit (RCU) at Colorado State University from June 1966 to August 1969. The RCU was responsible for coordinating data collection at several State agencies and research of the State Board and teacher training institutions. Information dissemination activities included the preparation of two films on vocational education, the organization of a dissemination and resource center at the university, and publication of various booklets and pamphlets about vocational education. In addition, the RCU tried to stimulate research and development at the local and university level by coordinating projects and working closely with graduate students at the Vocational Education Department at Colorado State University. (BC)

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FINAL REPORT

Project No. 6 - 3015

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September 1969

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Continuation of the Colorado Research Coordinating Unit

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Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education
Denver, Colorado 80203

September 1969

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SUMMARY

This document is the final report of the activities of the Colorado Research Coordinating Unit for the period June 1, 1965 to August 31, 1969. The RCU was originally funded for the 18-month period June 1, 1965 to December 1, 1966. A continuation grant covered the 19-month period from December 1, 1966 to July 1, 1968. An additional continuation grant covered the 14-month period from July 1, 1968 to September 1, 1969.

The RCU was centered in the Vocational Education Department at Colorado State University during the first two grant periods, from June 1, 1965 to July 1, 1968. Much of the activity of the RCU was carried out in the Office of Program Services of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education. On July 1, 1968, the RCU became a Section of the Division of Program Services with the State Board. This Division included the Vocational Guidance, Public Information, Special Projects and Research Sections.

The Research Coordinating Unit conducted, and was responsible for the conduct of, numerous activities during this reporting period. These activities are classified under the general headings Coordination of Research and Development and Dissemination and Stimulation. The coordination efforts were directed primarily at effecting coordination of data-gathering among several State agencies, and research of the State Board and the teacher training institutions. The dissemination activities included the preparation of two vocational education films, establishment of a dissemination and resource center at Colorado State University, the publication of various brochures, pamphlets and booklets related to vocational education, and other public relations work.

Stimulation activities were concerned primarily with that of stimulating research and development at the local and university levels. The RCU worked closely with graduate student research in the Vocational Education Department at CSU. Numerous research and development projects were coordinated at the local level through the RCU.

The RCU has expanded its role during this period and has become a significant factor in research and development in vocational education in the State. With the ever-broadening scope of vocational education, it is evident that the RCU will continue to play an important role in developing and maintaining quality vocational education programs for the State of Colorado.

INTRODUCTION

This Final Report covers the operation of the Colorado Research Coordinating Unit during the past 41 months, June 1965 through August 1969.

The Colorado Research Coordinating Unit was established June 1, 1965 by contract with the U. S. Office of Education. The original contract period was for 18 months. The activities of the Unit for the first 18-month period were reported in the Final Report for Contract No. OE-5-85-125 entitled A Plan to Provide an Occupational Research Center at Colorado State University, dated January 1967.

The activities of the Unit for the 19-month period December 1, 1966 to July 1, 1968 were reported in the Interim Report for Contract No. OEG-4-7-063016-1589, entitled Continuation of the Colorado Research Co-ordinating Unit, dated July 1968.

The activities of the Unit for the 14-month period July 1, 1968 to September 1, 1969 are as follows:

The grant period included the original continuation grant of 12 months from July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969. An added two-months extension was allowed by the Bureau of Research to provide additional time for the orderly transition of the Research Coordinating Unit from the USOE grants under Section 4(c) of PL 88-210 to State administration as provided under Part C, PL 90-576 of the 1968 Vocational Education Act Amendments.

SETTING AND ORGANIZATION

The Research Coordinating Unit was centered in the Department of Vocational Education at Colorado State University at the time of its inception. It was intended that there be an assistant director in the State Board offices in Denver, also. During the first 18 months of the Unit, however, we were not able to fill the position in the Denver office. With no person in the State Board offices, it was difficult to effect coordination among the Unit, the State Board and other State and federal agencies. This limited the effectiveness of the Unit for the first 18 months because the Unit was not as responsive to the needs and concerns of the State Board as it should have been.

Among the major objectives of the Colorado Research Coordinating Unit were those of stimulating research and development activity in the schools of the State and to establish a data and information center for the State Board. To work effectively on such objectives it was essential that the Unit have a direct line relationship to the Executive Director of the State Board. Consequently, the organization of the Unit changed at the time of the awarding of the Continuation Grant.

At about the same time that the RCU was funded for an additional 19 months (December 1, 1966 to July 1, 1968), the State Board established a new Division in its organization. This Division was called the Office of Program Services. Among the functions of this office were the supervision of Special Programs, Public Information, Guidance activities, and Research and Statistical activities. It was obvious that these functions were similar to RCU functions and that the activities of the RCU should be closely coordinated with the Office of Program Services in the State Board.

While some of the objectives of the RCU were seen as being most probably achieved by working in the State Board context, there were other objectives that needed to be attached in the university setting. These objectives included stimulating research and development activities among graduate students, the Vocational Education Department staff members, and other university staff. Consequently, it was considered necessary that the RCU have staff in the Department of Vocational Education at Colorado State University in order to work effectively on these objectives.

The graduate assistants of the RCU, as well as other graduate students in the Department, assisted with the activities of the RCU and the Office of Program Services. Furthermore, the research of the graduate students was supervised by the research advisors in the Vocational Education Department.

As the Division of Program Services of the State Board became functional, the similarity of its functions to those of the RCU caused

consideration to be given to transferring the RCU to the State Board. However, it was realized that the RCU objectives related to stimulation and the conducting of research could best be met at the university level. Therefore, if the RCU were to be moved to the State Board offices, it was considered necessary to maintain some staff also in the Department of Vocational Education at CSU in order to work effectively on these university-related objectives.

When the RCU Continuation Grant, covering the period July 1, 1968 to July 1, 1969 was received, the office of the Research Coordinating Unit was moved to the Program Services Division of the State Board. A Research Associate was maintained at Colorado State University and a Director for the RCU Section was employed at the State Board.

A new organizational structure was therefore developed for the RCU. This organizational pattern is shown on the following page of this report, and personnel of the RCU office at both the State Board and the University were as follows:

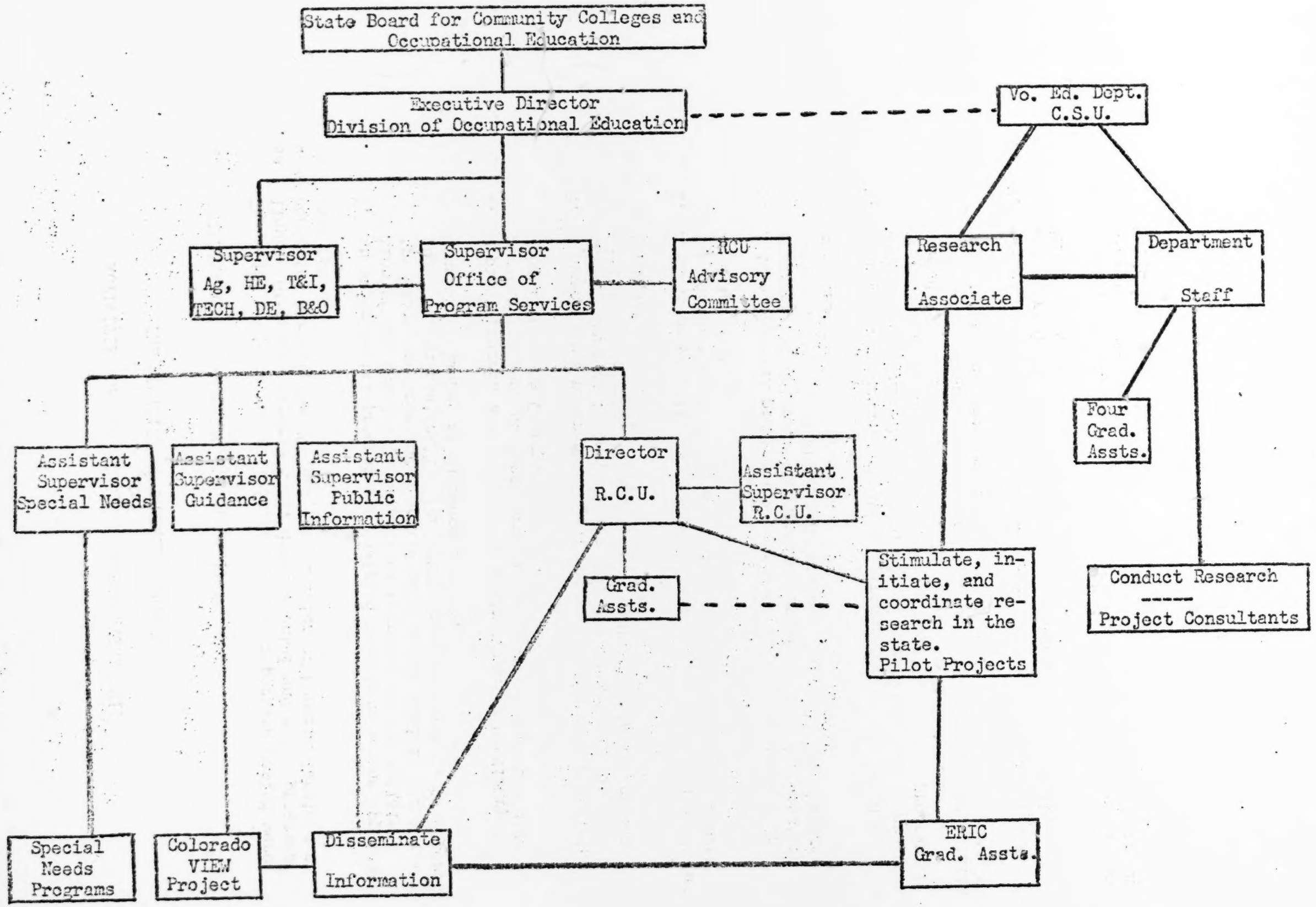
STATE BOARD

Supervisor of Program Services.....	12½ mos...	Dr. M. G. Hunt
Director RCU.....	14 mos....	Leonard Hergenreter
Assistant Supervisor, Research.....	5 mos....	Jim Litle
Assistant Supervisor, Public Inform'n..	14 mos....	Robert McCaffree
Assistant Supervisor, Voc'l. Guid'ce...	14 mos....	LeRoy Cavnar
Assistant Supervisor, Special Needs....	14 mos....	Jim Burden
Stenographer.....	14 mos....	Cora Jean Trujillo
Stenographer.....	14 mos....	Shelia Lilleston

UNIVERSITY

Research Associate.....	14 mos....	Dr. Douglas Sjogren
Graduate Research Assistant (ERIC).....	10 mos....	Dale Gutcher
Graduate Research Assistant.....	10 mos....	Jo Elen Zgut
Graduate Research Assistant.....	10 mos....	William Crain
Graduate Research Assistant.....	9 mos....	Connie Fritzler

ORGANIZATION



ACTIVITIES OF THE RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT
and
THE DIVISION OF PROGRAM SERVICES

A. COORDINATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The major projects and activities for this reporting period were as follows. Statewide experimental, developmental and pilot programs were conducted through the RCU and the Division of Program Services of the State Board.

1. An experimental program was designed to determine the application of the family-of-occupations approach to the building trades by constructing a mobile unit as the vehicle for developing the students' skills for entry-level employment, by Colorado Mountain College at Glenwood Springs.

2. A pilot program was designed to train mentally handicapped persons for jobs as Food Service employees at Mapleton High School in Adams County.

3. A development program was designed and conducted for training masonry workers in cooperation with the Structural Clay Products Institute. Programs were carried on in 14 schools throughout the State.

4. A pilot program in Health Occupations was designed and conducted for disadvantaged students at the Community College of Denver in Adams County.

5. A developmental program was conducted in 21 high schools in northeastern Colorado through the cooperation of Northeastern Junior College at Sterling to implement an adult Farm Management instructional program.

6. Four pilot programs, involving Introduction to the World of Work at the junior high school level, were conducted in cooperation with the Vocational Guidance Section. The programs served 1500 students. One of the programs included the use of the Educational Television Channel in the Denver metropolitan area to provide world of work instruction.

7. A developmental post-secondary program for the disadvantaged was started for migrants, utilizing tutors and bilingual instruction, at Aims College in Greeley.

8. A total of five summer pilot programs, serving 90 students, were conducted for persons with special needs in cooperation with the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

9. A developmental program was approved at Mesa College in Grand Junction to pretest licensed Practical Nurses, with the purpose of giving them remedial classes to enable them to be accepted into the Associate Degree Nursing Program without having to repeat courses in fundamental nursing techniques.

10. A survey to determine the need for Urban Horticulture was conducted for El Paso Community College in Colorado Springs.

11. A follow-up study of adult vocational students since 1954 was conducted in the Boulder Valley School District by Edwin Bostrom.

12. Area Vocational School feasibility studies were conducted in Pueblo, Aurora, Fort Collins and La Junta.

13. A developmental internship teacher training program was approved and started at Colorado State University.

14. A program for developing teacher training for Health Occupations was approved and conducted at Colorado State College in Greeley.

15. The statewide implementation of a pilot vocational education follow-up system was initiated.

16. The RCU Director cooperated with the MDTA Health Occupations Coordinator in developing a Health Report survey of MDTA students.

17. The RCU Director cooperated in the coordination of a random sampling of Colorado Vocational Education teachers and students for a national survey conducted by the U. S. Office of Education.

18. The RCU Director coordinated the development of, and wrote and submitted to the U. S. Office of Education, a State Plan for Professional Personnel Development, requesting funds under the Educational Professional Development Act.

The following research studies were conducted under the auspices of the teacher training institutions:

1. A study to determine the means of certification for teachers in technical, trade and industrial,and business and office education, by William Crain

2. A student follow-up study of two-year, reimbursed, post-secondary business and office and technical education programs in Colorado

3. A cost benefit analysis of vocational education, by Jurgen Mulart

4. A survey of trade and industry teachers in Colorado to determine degree status and need for further teacher training, by Ralph Orr

5. A follow-up study of teachers to evaluate course content and teacher performance following completion of vocational classes taught at Colorado State University during the summer of 1968, by Ralph Orr

6. A study to develop an interdisciplinary, cooperative vocational program for small rural high schools, by Charles Neal

7. A study to determine placement opportunities in Ornamental Horticulture in the Windsor area, by Franklin Johnson, Jr.

8. A study to determine placement opportunities in Agricultural occupations for students in the Fort Collins area, by Sidney Koon, Jr.

9. A survey to determine the need for a technician training program for Forestry Conservation and Recreation Aides in the Rocky Mountain region, by James Litle

10. A study to determine the need for a Veterinarian Aid training program in Colorado, by James Litle

11. Factors influencing Vocational Agriculture students in relation to Agricultural occupations, by Larry Lusk

12. Factors of testing in three trades, by Edward Lloyd Breese

13. A model for the prediction of the development of new technical level programs, by Raymond J. Needham

14. Personality in vocational occupations, by Janie L. Jones

15. A study to determine the need for agricultural training of young and adult farmers in the Palisade-Grand Junction, Colorado community, by Curtis Talley

16. A study to determine the occupational opportunities and characteristics of employees in non-production agricultural occupations in the Yuma, Colorado community, by Glen Sowder

17. A case study: Predictions of success in post-high school vocational trade, industrial and technical programs, by Thomas C. Stone

B. DISSEMINATION, STIMULATION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Established a vocational education library and ERIC-VT information and dissemination center at Colorado State University.

2. Developed and printed a brochure for distribution across the State containing information about the ERIC RCU dissemination and information center at Colorado State University.

3. A listing of pertinent research studies and resource materials was duplicated and disseminated quarterly to all vocational education State supervisory personnel, local vocational directors, superintendents of school, and teacher trainers.

4. A library of current vocational education resource materials was established and maintained for State Board staff use.

5. The RCU cooperated with the Area School Supervisor and the Publications Specialist to prepare, print and distribute an Area Vocational School Handbook.

6. Cooperated with Publications Specialist in preparing and distributing the Annual Vocational Education Report.

7. The Publications Specialist cooperated with the Homemaking Supervisor in preparing, printing and disseminating the publication, Foods for Thrifty Families.

8. Cooperated with the Vocational Guidance Supervisor, Publications Specialist and the Special Needs Supervisor in preparing, printing and disseminating the publication, Guide to Vocational Training Opportunities Beyond the High School.

9. Prepared, printed and distributed, in cooperation with the Publications Specialist, a booklet, Advisory Councils Are Essential To Vocational Education Programs in Colorado.

10. Conducted, in cooperation with the Tennessee RCU, a conference in Denver on January 29 and 30, 1969, on the subject, "Cooperation of Business and the Schools to Provide Job-Oriented Education for the Disadvantaged."

11. The RCU Director prepared, in cooperation with the Director of Program Services, a materials paper on "The Problems in Vocational Education," for distribution to the Vocational State staff and the State Advisory Board.

12. The RCU Director and the Supervisor of Program Services cooperated in coordinating the development and writing of the Colorado State Plan for Vocational Education for 1970.

13. A vocational education film entitled, "The Future," was produced by the State Board and has been shown throughout the State to thousands of people. Requests from other states for copies and loan of the film have been very gratifying.

14. The Research Coordinating Unit is represented on a newly formed State Interagency Research Coordinating Council, whose major function is to coordinate data management for all State agencies, to provide for more meaningful long-range planning.

C. MAJOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

The RCU Director--

1. Presented the State follow-up system at three regional superintendents' meetings at Pueblo, Denver and Grand Junction.

2. Met with members of the Four Corners Regional Commission and members of the Southwestern Board of Cooperative Services to discuss vocational education area school survey for the San Juan Basin.

3. Served on the Steering Committee for the Sterling Institute vocational education Four Corners Study.

4. Met with the Director of Vocational Education of Northeastern Junior College and the Head Teacher Trainer of Vocational Agriculture from Colorado State University to develop a comprehensive pilot program for Adult Agricultural Education in northeastern Colorado.

5. Attended the conference on "Man, Education and Work" at Colorado State University.

6. Met with a Vocational Education Committee in Fort Morgan, Colorado concerning a possible area vocational school study.

7. Met with the Head of the Forestry Department and the Head Teacher Trainer of Vocational Agriculture to develop a needed study for forestry conservation and recreation technicians in the Rocky Mountain area.

8. Met with the Director of Vocational Education and the Building Trades Instructor to develop a building trades family-of-occupations pilot study at Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Springs.

9. Miss Jo Elen Zgut, RCU Graduate Research Assistant, represented the Colorado RCU at a national meeting in Chicago on "Teaching the Disadvantaged."

10. The RCU Director, Special Needs Supervisor, and the Supervisor of Program Services attended a conference conducted by the Tennessee RCU concerning cooperative programs of school and business and industry to serve the disadvantaged.

11. The RCU Director and the Supervisor of Special Needs met with the various superintendents of small high schools in Weld County, Colorado, and representatives of Aims College at Greeley, to discuss the implementation of special vocational pilot programs for these smaller high schools of the county.

12. The RCU Director and Dr. Harold Starr of The Ohio State University met with the State Board Division Supervisors, the Coordinators at Opportunity School, the Local Director of Vocational Education at Longmont, and personnel of the Community College of Denver to review preliminary data-gathering instruments for the National Evaluation Pilot Project.

13. The RCU Director attended the National RCU Directors' Meeting in Salt Lake City.

14. Attended the Regional Clinic on Vocational Education in Denver.

15. Attended the annual Colorado Vocational Association Conference, in which he served on a panel discussing "Exemplary Programs in Vocational Education."

16. Met with each Vocational Division individually at the CVA Conference to discuss research and exemplary programs in vocational education.

17. Participated in the State Board reorganization conference.

18. The RCU Director, the Supervisor of Vocational Guidance, and the Supervisor of Special Needs attended a meeting at the Rocky Mountain Educational Laboratory concerning a broad-based pilot program of introduction to the world of work.

20. The RCU Director attended the Western Regional RCU Directors' Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

CONCLUSIONS

The Occupational Education Research Coordinating Unit has been located in the Division of Program Services of the Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education for the past 14 months. The transition from the university setting to the State Board setting was not without hesitancy on the part of some of the personnel involved.

Federal Legislation

With the enactment of the federal Vocational Amendments of 1968, it appears in this writer's opinion that, in fact, the move was a wise one. Under the new State Plan for Vocational Education in Colorado, the Research Coordinating Unit has become the Research and Training Section of the State Board. This Section, through its various activities, can indeed strengthen occupational education through research and development within the State.

Research Personnel

One of the continuing problems in occupational education research is the dearth of qualified, competent research personnel. Through the coordination and stimulation of continued research activity, the recruitment of personnel should be enhanced.

Coordination and Cooperation

The effectiveness of dissemination can be greatly strengthened through research and training to utilize fully the capabilities of the ERIC Clearinghouse for Vocational and Technical Education. In the future, it will be necessary to maintain a close linkage among the research personnel in the various states. Future vocational program development, in order to meet the challenge which it faces, must be based upon sound judgment which can be greatly enhanced by the research which has been conducted through the efforts of the Research Coordinating Units across the nation.

Further, cooperation and coordination among the various agencies within the State in necessary in order to secure the data which is needed for the total planning process.

The RCU is now the Research and Training Section in the Division of Planning and Development in Colorado. We must be ready to move forward in response to the needs of expanded vocational technical education. The Research Section must continue to provide the services and activities which have proven their worth through the Research Coordinating Units in the past in order to meet the challenge of the future.